

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. GREATER NEW YORK

February 24, 2012

Bronx Museum Gets Venice Role

By JENNIFER MALONEY

The Bronx Museum of the Arts will present an installation by Chelsea artist Sarah Sze in the U.S. Pavilion at the 2013 Venice Biennale, one of the most prestigious cultural institutions in the world, the museum announced Thursday.

Ms. Sze, 43 years old, is a MacArthur Fellow who last year completed a sculpture for the High Line and currently is working on a massive installation for New York City Transit's new Second Avenue subway station at 96th Street.

Her installations often use everyday items such as coffee cups, plastic bottles and electric fans. Her large-scale constructions challenge architecture by penetrating walls, hanging from ceilings and burrowing into the ground.

Her Venice piece, called "Triple Point," will be installed in the 1930s Palladian-style U.S. Pavilion designed by architects William Adams Delano and Chester Holmes Aldrich. It will extend beyond the pavilion into a courtyard, blurring the boundaries between the building's interior and exterior.

The co-commissioners of the pavilion are Bronx Museum executive director Holly Block and

the independent curator and critic Carey Lovelace.

Ms. Lovelace said Ms. Sze challenges viewers "by reorganizing reference points, disorienting and reorienting at every turn."

Ms. Sze couldn't be reached Thursday evening. Her solo projects have been exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Institute of Contemporary Art in London.

For the subway project, she is using ceramic tiles to play with travelers' sense of light, space and perspective. At one entrance, a gust of wind will appear to follow commuters down a staircase, blowing leaves and pieces of paper.

The Venice Biennale, founded in 1895, will take place next year from June to November. It will be curated by Massimiliano Gioni, associate director of the New Museum.

The Bronx museum will stream video documenting the Venice project, as Ms. Sze conceives, fabricates and installs the piece.

The exhibition will be sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.